

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04176 280931Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 AID-20 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 280818Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4574

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: STUDENT SCENE

REF: SEOUL 3163

1. CAMPUSES HAVE REMAINED QUIET SINCE SOGANG UNIVERSITY YEARBOOK INCIDENT IN MID-MAY (REFTEL). ON-CAMPUS FESTIVITIES AND SPORTS EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT INCIDENT. KOREAN UNIVERSITY AND HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES HAVE ELECTED NEW STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS. FIRST TERM EXAMS ARE BEING HELD ON SCHEDULE, WITH MOST ENDING BY JULY 10. EXCEPTIONS ARE EHWA UNIVERSITY, WHERE EXAMS END JULY 3, AND SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU) LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE, WHICH WILL NOT FINISH UNTIL JULY 20. DELAY AT SNU REFLECTS LATE BEGINNING OF SPRING SEMESTER. AFTER EXAMS SCHOOLS WILL HAVE SUMMER RECESS OF ABOUT SIX WEEKS.

2. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VICE SPEAKER YI CHOL-SUNG'S SON, WHO IS AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE MAJORING IN LITERATURE AT KOREA UNIVERSITY, TOLD EMBOFF THAT ENTIRE CAMPUS IS PERVADED BY APATHY AND EVEN MOST
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04176 280931Z

RADICAL ELEMENTS IN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTIES ARE "SUPER-DUPER QUIET." HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN LITERALLY NO OBSERVABLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND NO PARTICULAR INTEREST IN CURRENT NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH AND STUDENTS (NFDYS) TRIALS. MOREOVER, BECAUSE SITUATION IS QUIET NUMBER OF FORMERLY PREVALENT KCIA AND POLICE AGENTS HAS BEEN REDUCED. YOUNG YI ADDED THAT SOME STUDENTS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY GOVERNMENT CHARGES THAT NFDYS STUDENTS HAD BEEN USED BY COMMUNISTS AND HE CONCLUDED THAT FOR TIME BEING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY COWED.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, SEVERAL FACULTY SOURCES HAVE INDICATED BELIEF THAT ANTI-GOVT STUDENTS HAVE NOT BASICALLY CHANGED THEIR VIEWS AND THAT PROTEST WILL RESUME AFTER SUMMER VACATION, THOUGH ON SMALLER SCALE THAN BEFORE EMERGENCY MEASURES. ONE STUDENT ACTIVIST TOLD EMBOFF HE AND FRIENDS WERE EVEN NOW DISCUSSING THEMES FOR ANTI-GOVT PROTEST AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT WAIT LONG TO RESUME ANTI-GOVT ACTIVITY WHEN CLASSES RESUME. HOWEVER, SOURCE CONFESSED THAT HE EXPECTED SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTIVITY FROM NO MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF STUDENTS.

4. ONE UNCERTAIN FACTOR IN PREDICTING STUDENT BEHAVIOR IS COURSE GOVT WILL TAKE IN SENTENCING NFDYS SUSPECTS. IF COURT-MARTIAL GIVES HEAVY SENTENCES TO JAPANESE AND OLDER ACTIVIST AND LEFTIST LEADERS WHILE SHOWING LENIENCY TO STUDENT FOLLOWERS, AS SOME OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED, TRIALS SHOULD NOT BE TOO UNSETTLING. ROK OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT SENTENCING OF JAPANESE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER JAPANESE UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS. IF REST OF NFDYS CASE SIMILARLY HELD UP, OUTCOME WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL ABOUT THE TIME MOST SCHOOLS CLOSE.

5. IN SUM, CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE FOR CONTINUED QUIET ON CAMPUS, THOUGH NOT WITHOUT OCCASIONAL OUTBRUST OF STUDENT PROTEST ON A SMALLER SCALE THAN IN THE PAST.

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 04176 280931Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, STUDENT GROUPS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COURTS MARTIAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL04176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740171-0926
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974063/aaaaacnd.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 3163
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT SCENE
TAGS: PINT, KS, NFDYS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005